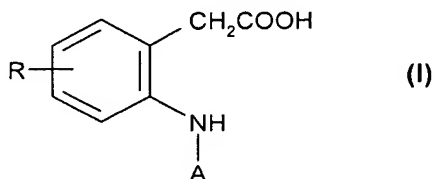


### Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A compound of formula (I)



wherein

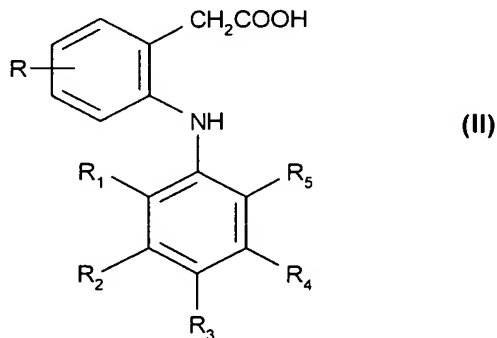
R is hydrogen, lower alkyl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)cycloalkyl, hydroxy, halo, lower alkoxy, trifluoromethoxy, trifluoromethyl or cyano; and

A is biaryl, optionally substituted β-naphthyl, bicyclic heterocyclic aryl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)cycloalkyl-monocyclic carbocyclic aryl, ~~[or bicyclic (C<sub>5</sub>- or C<sub>6</sub>)cycloalkane monocyclic carbocyclic aryl]~~ optionally substituted 5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphthyl or optionally substituted indanyl; provided that when bicyclic heterocyclic aryl is optionally substituted quinoliny, R is located at the 5-position and R does not represent hydrogen;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester thereof.

Claim 2 (original): A compound according to claim 1, wherein A represents optionally substituted β-naphthyl, optionally substituted quinoliny, optionally substituted isoquinoliny, optionally substituted 5,6,7,8-tetrahydronaphthyl, optionally substituted indanyl, optionally substituted biphenylyl, optionally substituted (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)cycloalkyl-phenyl or optionally substituted monocyclic heteroaryl-phenyl; provided that when A is optionally substituted quinoliny, R is located at the 5-position and R does not represent hydrogen.

Claim 3 (original): A compound according to claim 1 of formula (II)



wherein

R is hydrogen, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)cycloalkyl, halo, lower alkoxy, trifluoromethoxy, cyano or trifluoromethyl;

R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, (C<sub>1</sub> or C<sub>2</sub>)alkyl or trifluoromethyl;

R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen, fluoro, chloro, (C<sub>1</sub> or C<sub>2</sub>)alkyl or trifluoromethyl;

R<sub>3</sub> is optionally substituted phenyl or (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)cycloalkyl;

R<sub>4</sub> is hydrogen, halo, lower alkyl or trifluoromethyl; and

R<sub>5</sub> is halo, lower alkyl or trifluoromethyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester thereof.

Claim 4 (original): A compound according to claim 3 of formula (II),

wherein

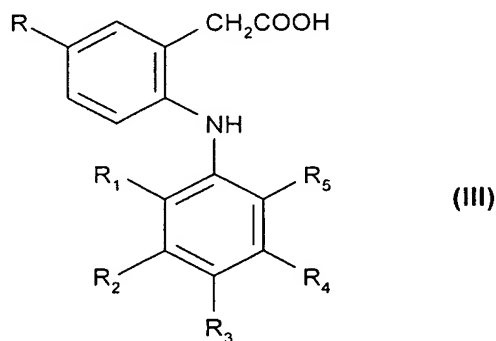
R is hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, propyl, methoxy, chloro, fluoro, cyclopropyl, cyano, trifluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl;

R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are, independently, hydrogen, fluoro or chloro; and

R<sub>3</sub> is (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)cycloalkyl, phenyl, or phenyl mono- or poly-substituted independently by lower alkyl, fluoro, chloro, lower alkoxy or (C<sub>1</sub> or C<sub>2</sub>)alkylenedioxy;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester thereof.

Claim 5 (original): A compound according to claim 1 of formula (III)



wherein

R is hydrogen, (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>)alkyl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)cycloalkyl, halo, lower alkoxy, trifluoromethoxy or trifluoromethyl;

R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, chloro, fluoro or (C<sub>1</sub> or C<sub>2</sub>)alkyl;

R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen or fluoro;

R<sub>3</sub> is cyclopropyl, cyclohexyl, phenyl or phenyl substituted by chloro, fluoro, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl or lower alkylenedioxy;

R<sub>4</sub> is hydrogen, (C<sub>1</sub> or C<sub>2</sub>)alkyl, trifluoromethyl or fluoro; and

R<sub>5</sub> is fluoro, chloro or (C<sub>1</sub> or C<sub>2</sub>)alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester thereof.

Claim 6 (original): A compound according to claim 5,  
wherein

R is (C<sub>1</sub> or C<sub>2</sub>)alkyl, cyclopropyl, chloro or fluoro;

R<sub>1</sub> is chloro or fluoro;

R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen or fluoro;

R<sub>3</sub> is cyclopropyl;

R<sub>4</sub> is hydrogen, methyl or fluoro; and

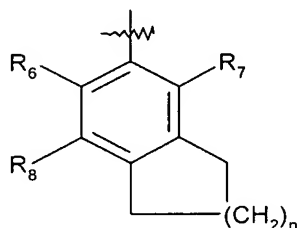
R<sub>5</sub> is fluoro;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester thereof.

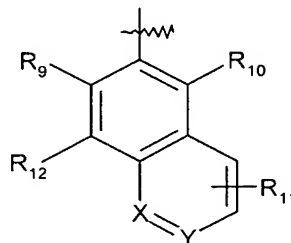
Claim 7 (original): A compound according to claim 1 of formula (I),  
wherein

R is hydrogen, lower alkyl, (C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>)cycloalkyl, halo, lower alkoxy, trifluoromethoxy, cyano or trifluoromethyl; and

A is selected from radicals (a) and (b)



(a)



(b)

wherein in radical (a)

n is 1 or 2; and

R<sub>6</sub>-R<sub>8</sub> are independently hydrogen, lower alkyl or halo; and

wherein in radical (b)

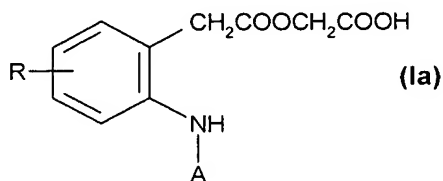
R<sub>9</sub>-R<sub>12</sub> are independently hydrogen, lower alkyl or halo; and

X and Y are CH, or one of the X and Y is N and the other is CH; provided that when X is

N and Y is CH, R is located at the 5-position and R does not represent hydrogen;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; or a pharmaceutically acceptable ester thereof.

Claim 8 (original): A compound according to claim 1 of formula (Ia)



(Ia)

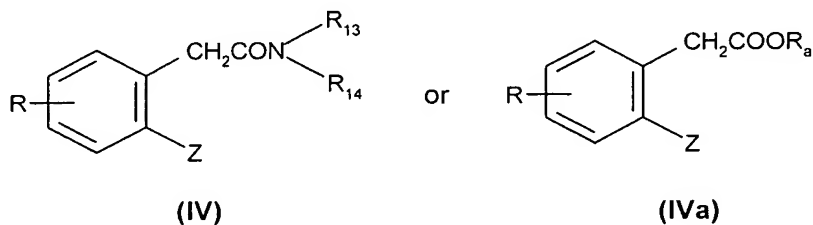
wherein R and A have meaning as defined in said claim; or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 9 (original): A pharmaceutical composition comprising an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 in combination with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

Claims 10-12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (original): A method for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) of claim 1 which comprises:

a) coupling a compound of formula (IV) or (IVa)



wherein

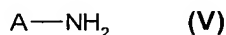
Z is iodo or bromo;

R has meaning as defined in claim 1;

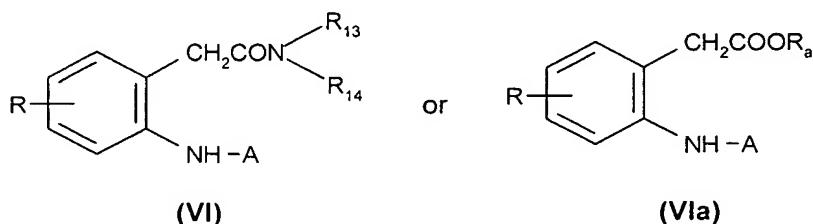
R<sub>a</sub> is hydrogen, an alkali metal cation or lower alkyl, preferably isopropyl; and

R<sub>13</sub> and R<sub>14</sub> are lower alkyl; or R<sub>13</sub> and R<sub>14</sub> together with the nitrogen atom represent piperidino, pyrrolidino or morpholino;

with a compound of formula (V)

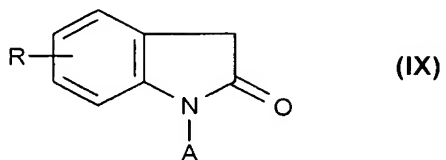


wherein A has meaning as defined in claim 1, in the presence of copper and cuprous iodide to obtain a compound of formula (VI) or (VIa)



and hydrolyzing the resulting compound of formula (VI) or (VIa) to a compound of formula (I);  
or

(b) hydrolyzing a lactam of formula (IX)



wherein

R and A have meaning as defined in claim 1, with a strong base; and

in above processes, if desired, temporarily protecting any interfering reactive groups and then isolating the resulting compound of the invention; and, if desired, converting any resulting compound into another compound of the invention; and/or if desired converting a free carboxylic acid of the invention into a pharmaceutically acceptable ester derivative thereof; and/or if desired, converting a resulting free acid into a salt or a resulting salt into the free acid or into another salt.